

Then, again, the list of Guianan birds is capable of being considerably extended, so that the subject will have to be revised at some future day.

But it appears, so far, from an examination of these collections, that though Guiana has a certain affinity, as regards its birds, with the Andean countries of Venezuela, Colombia, Ecuador, and Peru, and to a less extent with Central America, Bolivia, and S.E. Brazil, its relationship to the immediately adjoining country, the vast basin of the Amazons river and its tributaries, is much closer. This result is quite in accordance with previous views on this subject.

Further, the connection of Guiana with the West Indies, North America, and the Argentine Republic is very slight, and, as regards the two first-named countries, consists chiefly in the fact that both the West Indies and Guiana are the winter abode of a number of North-American migratory species.

XLIX.—*Notices of Recent Ornithological Publications.*

[Continued from p. 376.]

77. *The American Ornithologists' Union Code and Check-List.*

[The Code of Nomenclature and Check-List of North American Birds, adopted by the American Ornithologists' Union: being the Report of the Committee of the Union on Classification and Nomenclature. New York. 1886. 8vo.]

The motto adopted on the titlepage of this volume—"Zoological Nomenclature is a means, not an end, of Zoological science"—is termed by the Committee a "trite truism," which they raise with regret to the dignity of a "Principle," in order to protest "against every wanton, capricious, arbitrary, or otherwise needless and undesirable change of names which have acquired usage and definite signification in Zoology." The four more Principles enunciated by the Committee being equally unexceptionable, we may pass on to the fifty-two Canons and ten Recommendations. By Canon XIII. it is

upheld that "Zoological Nomenclature begins at 1758, the date of the Xth edition of the 'Systema Naturæ' of Linnæus;" so, without wasting time in arguments which must necessarily be barren of results, we will merely express our regret at the adoption of this starting-point instead of the XIIth Edition (1766), considering, as we do, that this proceeding disposes of the last chance of a scientific language in common with our ornithological brethren across the water. Inasmuch as nearly seven pages are devoted to explanation and reasoning as to the propriety of this step, it may possibly occur to some cynical minds that herein our American friends do "protest too much." In Canon XL. it is laid down that "the original orthography of a name is to be rigidly preserved, unless a typographical error is evident," emendations of a purely philological character being rejected. So that because the original describer knew no better than to write *Æstrelata* and *Enicurus*, &c., the erroneous orthography is to be perpetuated, although the new Code itself states that scientific names are to be in Latin or the nearest approach to it! Even more objectionable is the adoption or retention of names given to a section of a genus or other group, as though they had been the names of defined and characterized genera: whereas many of them are merely *nomina nuda*. But enough of this; nor do we intend to say a word about the use of trinomials. Before leaving the first portion of the work, we would, however, remark that it is hardly consistent to select for reprobation *Tetrao mlokosiewiczii*, "named after an obscure forester somewhere in Russia," and not to bracket with it *Synthliborhamphus wumizusume*.

The Check-List itself begins with the Pygopodes, and works upward to the Passeres, the first family being given as Podicipidæ, in opposition to Dr. Elliott Coues, who in his 'Key' renders it, correctly as we think, Podicipedidæ. We protest against the adoption of *Gavia* as the generic name for the Ivory Gull, *Pagophila eburnea*. Boie instituted the genus *Gavia* for the Ivory Gull and the Kittiwake, simply because they both had short tarsi and frequented rocks; but there seems to be no good reason for giving the preference

to the Ivory Gull as the *type* of the genus, because of the two it stands the first. Again, it seems a pity to discard the thoroughly well-based and established name *Sterna anglica* for the Gull-billed Tern, in favour of Hasselquist's *S. nilotica*. True, the species in question is found on the Nile, but Hasselquist describes his *S. nilotica* as having "flesh-coloured feet," which the Gull-billed Tern has not; whereas the Little Gull, *Larus minutus*, a bird of about the same size, also found on the Nile, has red legs and feet; and the same may be said of the Common Tern. Such procedure seems inconsistent with Canon XXXVI., "A name resting solely on an inadequate diagnosis is to be rejected;" and with Canon XLV., "Absolute identification is requisite in order to displace a modern current name by an older obscure one." Not much more than a year ago, when vol. ii. of the 'Water-Birds of North America' was published, the old generic name *Mergus* given by Linnæus was good enough, but now it is discarded in favour of *Merganser*, Brisson! It is, however, gratifying to find that to the American Bittern is now assigned the well-known specific designation of *lentiginosus*, instead of that of (*Botaurus*) *mugitans* (Bartram), a *nomen nudum* adopted by Dr. Coues. But (*Anas*) *boschas* and (*Scolopax*) *rusticola* must remain uncorrected, for they were so written, or at least so printed, "in the beginning," *i. e.* 1758.

It is not our wish to pick holes in the execution of the very difficult task of giving, in a few lines, an accurate sketch of the geographical distribution of each of the nearly 800 species enumerated, but a few details may be noticed. We think that *Mniotilta varia* goes beyond "Central America and the West Indies," as far as Colombia and Venezuela; *Turdus fuscescens* goes far south of "the Plains," even unto Panamá and the valley of the Amazons; and *Sialia azurea*, the habitat of which is given as "Southern Arizona and Eastern Mexico," *breeds* in Guatemala. We notice that the authors of the List persist in calling the Cliff-Swallow *Petrochelidon lunifrons* (Say), instead of *P. pyrrhonota* (Vieill.), though how they could argue the point out consistently we cannot think. The demands upon our space preclude further

remarks ; but while admitting that the publication of such a List demands recognition on its merits, we must regret the drawbacks to which we have already alluded, and others which we have passed over in silence.

78. 'The Auk.'

['The Auk,' a Quarterly Journal of Ornithology. Vol. III. No. 2, April, No. 3, July, 1886.]

The articles treating of the ornithology of the North-American continent are of the usual interesting character, but some of them need hardly be enumerated in this notice. Mr. C. B. Cory contributes two instalments of his "Birds of the West Indies," with somewhat rough woodcuts of a few of the species. Mr. A. P. Chadbourne describes a new race of the Field-Sparrow from Texas, as *Spizella pusilla arenacea*, var. nov. (p. 248) ; and at p. 262 a new species of Heron from Florida is named *Ardeetta neoxena* by Mr. Cory. Mr. E. T. Seton gives an account of the species found in our Canadian possession, Manitoba, 257 in number ; and Mr. W. Brewster concludes his "Ornithological Reconnaissance in western North Carolina," respecting the mountains of which, in winter, Mr. Batchelder contributes his experiences. A batch of new species forms a feature of the July number of our contemporary. Mr. Ridgway opens with *Larus barrovianus*, sp. nov., from Alaska and vicinity, differing from *L. glaucus* in the shape of its bill and coloration of mantle and primaries ; *Hæmatopus galapagensis*, sp. n., from the Galapagos ; *Amphispiza ferrariperezi*, *Pipilo submaculatus*, *P. complexus*, *Anas diazi*, *Philortyx personatus*, spp. nn., from various localities in Southern Mexico ; *Pyroderus masoni*, *Aulacorhamphus dimidiatus*, spp. nn., supposed to be from the interior of Venezuela ; *Micrathene graysoni*, sp. n., from Socorro Island, Western Mexico ; *Pealea*, gen. n., type *Thalassidroma lineata*, Peale ; *Geothlypis coryi*, *G. tanneri*, *Centurus nyeanus*, and *C. blakei*, spp. nn., from the Bahamas ; and, lastly, the new genus *Lawrencina*, type *Empidonax nanus*, Lawr., already mentioned in our present issue (p. 461). Mr. Cory describes three new species :—*Thryothorus guadeloupensis* from Guadeloupe, *Loxi-*

gilla richardsoni from Sta. Lucia, and *L. barbadensis* from Barbadoes. Mr. Brewster's paper on the new Petrel *Æstrelata scalaris* (we should write *Æstrelata*) treats of the question of its distinctness from *Æ. fisheri*, Ridgw., and *Æ. gularis*, Peale.

79. *The Bombay Natural History Society.*

[Journal of the Bombay Natural History Society. Edited by E. H. Aitken and R. A. Sterndale. Vol. I. No. 1, January, No. 2, April, 1886.]

This Society was founded so long ago as 1883, and we are glad to find that it has now developed sufficient vitality to have a mouth-piece. Such a Journal was much wanted in India since the abrupt discontinuance of 'Stray Feathers,' and it is satisfactory to see a goodly list of Members. The Editors are Messrs. E. H. Aitken and R. A. Sterndale, who are also in special charge of the Sections of Mammals and Birds; and the former contributes an interesting ornithological paper to the first number, "On the Mimicry of *Phyllornis jerdoni*," besides "Catalogues of the Birds and Eggs in the Society's Collection." No. 2 opens with a friendly criticism by Mr. H. Littledale, of the 'Handbook to the Birds of the Bombay Presidency,' lately noticed in this Journal (p. 190), by Lieut. H. E. Barnes, who in his turn contributes an article on "Birds'-nesting in Rajpootana." We shall look forward to further interesting papers from our *confrères* and others, for Indian ornithologists should not allow themselves to be forgotten.

80. *Brewster on Bird-Migration.*

[Bird-Migration. By William Brewster. Memoirs of the Nuttall Ornithological Club. No. 1, March, 1886. Cambridge, Mass. 4to.]

An Introduction informs us that although the Nuttall Ornithological Club merged its quarterly bulletin in the 'Auk,' yet seeing that the latter is already overcrowded and unable to accept long papers, the Club has decided to begin a series of Memoirs, to be issued irregularly, as material offers. Naturally the President of the Club takes the initiative, and commences with a very interesting paper, divided

into two sections ; the former treating of the author's ' Observations on nocturnal Bird-flights at the lighthouse at Point Lepreaux, Bay of Fundy, New Brunswick ; ' the latter being entitled ' Facts and Theories respecting the general subject of Bird-Migration.' Mr. Brewster's experiences in the lantern of the lighthouse while birds were striking frequently, and at times continuously, are very interesting, his estimate of the proportion borne by the killed and severely wounded to those which escape practically uninjured being highly instructive. Part II. deserves, and has no doubt already received, careful perusal from those who are specially studying the migration of birds. It would be difficult to find a more patient observer than Mr. Brewster, and his statements with regard to North-American species deserve the highest respect, however much some of them may militate against the experiences of some observers on this side of the water. His opinion is, that with most North-American birds the majority of adults either precede or accompany the first flights of young in the autumnal migration, and he has failed to find any proof that the young of a single species precede the old. From this rule he does not even except the North-American *Limicolæ*. What do our authorities on European migrants say to this ? Here is plenty of matter for controversy, and still more for reflection, to which latter we will confine ourselves. To those who believe that the American Spotted Sandpiper visits the British Islands, we recommend Mr. Brewster's remark that it " is conspicuous among *Scolopaciæ* for its comparatively feeble, restricted powers of flight ; " yet there are some ornithologists for whom such unproved visitations present no difficulty, while the well-authenticated narratives of the behaviour of the nestling Cuckoo are classed with stories of ghosts and apparitions.

81. *British Association's Report on Migrations in 1885.*

[Report on the Migration of Birds in the Spring and Autumn of 1885. By Messrs. J. A. Harvie-Brown, J. Cordeaux, R. M. Barrington, A. G. More, and W. Eagle Clarke. Seventh Report. 8vo. Edinburgh : 1886.]

This seventh Report shows a marked improvement upon

its predecessors in style and in condensation of material. Mr. Harvie-Brown's remarks upon the main lines of migration in Scotland are very interesting, and to those mentioned by him we may be permitted to add the valley of the Nith, upon the authority of an observant ornithologist, Mr. Robert Service, of Dumfries. As before, a map is prefixed with a numbered index to the stations; but we think that in the body of the Report it would be better if the *names* of the places were given, for practically readers will not refer to the map at every instant to see, for instance, where Stations "IV., X., XIV., and XXVII." may be; they may do so at first, but they will not keep it up for long. The suggestion that a list should be formed of localities where foreign fowls like the various species of *Porphyrio*, Canada Geese, and other water-birds likely to stray, are kept, appears to meet a want, and we recommend it to our readers. Mr. Gätke's diary from Heligoland is of unusual interest this year; but the days on which nothing whatever occurred might have been omitted, to the saving of many a line. We observe that the Recorders for Ireland trust that "the Commissioners of Irish Lights will distribute six additional copies of Morris's 'British Birds' in the present year":—would not the coloured plates suffice without the letterpress?

82. *A. W. Butler on the Birds of Indiana.*

[A List of the Birds observed in Franklin County, Indiana. By Amos W. Butler. Bull. Brookville Soc. Nat. Hist., No. 2, 1886.]

The species mentioned as found in this south-eastern portion of Indiana are 235 in number; and those which breed there are distinguished by an asterisk. This List forms a useful supplement to the accounts already given of the avifauna of the district by Dr. Haymond, Mr. E. R. Quick, and the author.

83. *Giglioli on the Birds of Italy.*

[Avifauna Italica. Elenco delle specie di uccelli stazionarie o di passaggio in Italia, colla loro sinonimia volgare, e con notizie più specialmente

intorno alle migrazioni ed alla nidificazione, compilato dal Dottore Enrico Hillyer Giglioli. 8vo. Firenze: 1886.]

This very important work will prove invaluable to any one who is studying the Birds of Europe, containing as it does the most complete and accurate list which has yet appeared of the species found in Italy and the neighbouring islands, inclusive of Malta. Especially useful are the remarks upon geographical distribution and breeding-limits. Amongst the rarities we note *Turdus pallasii*, *Oreocincla dauma*, *Nemura cyanura*, *Sylvia nana*, *Hypolais olivetorum* and *H. opaca*, *Accentor montanellus*, *Chelidon cashmiriensis*, *Cotile obsoleta*, *Syrnium uralense*, *Aquila nipalensis*, *Bubulcus coromandus*, *Hydrornia alleni*, and *Ægialitis geoffroyi*, as well as some sea-birds which seldom enter the Mediterranean. By the way, we have recently examined specimens of the Indian Buff-backed Heron (*B. coromandus*) from Lenkoran, on the Caspian. We are glad also to see that Prof. Giglioli has succeeded in unearthing the fast-decaying specimen of *Houbara undulata* which Saunders asserted many years ago to be in the Syracuse Museum, but which has since lain there unobserved, and has even had its very existence doubted. At the end of the volume are lists of residents and migrants, calendars of breeding, &c. We are glad to see that at the suggestion of Prof. Giglioli the Italian Government has established an Ornithological Bureau dependent upon the Board of Agriculture, and at the end of the year a Report will be issued of the results of the observations collected by naturalists and also by keepers of lighthouses and semaphore stations. But let it not be forgotten that, although still without one penny of Government aid, it was a Committee of British ornithologists who inaugurated the movement now so well imitated in America and elsewhere.

84. Meyer on Birds from Emperor-William's-Land.

[Notiz über eine Vogelsammlung von Kaiser Wilhelms Land (Nordost-Neu Guinea) und Nachbarschaft von A. B. Meyer.- Zeitsch. f. d. ges. Ornithol. 1886, Heft 1.]

Dr. A. B. Meyer treats of the first collection of birds

received in Europe from Emperor-William's-Land, as the German portion of New Guinea is now called. This was made by the well-known French traveller Laglaize at Kafu, on the north coast, in $143^{\circ} 15'$ E. long. Two species (*Paradisæa finschi*, Meyer, and *Cyclopsittacus edwardsi*, Oust.) had previously been described from the same locality. These, added to the 24 of which examples were in Laglaize's collection, make the total number of species as yet known from Lifu 26, of which the list is here given. Besides these, Salvadori (Atti R. Ac. Sc. Torino, xiii. p. 317) has recorded 16 species of birds obtained on Tarawai Island, off the north coast of New Guinea, which is probably within the limits of the recent German acquisitions. But there is some little uncertainty as to the identification of this little-known island (or islands?).

85. '*Mittheilungen*' of the Ornithological Union of Vienna.

[Mittheilungen des ornithologischen Vereines in Wien. Section für Vogelkunde. Jahr. 10, Nos. 6-10, 1886.]

These numbers are mostly occupied with local ornithological papers and translations. No. 10 contains an article of wider interest, on the birds of New Zealand, by A. Reischek, of Auckland, in which good original observations on the various Petrels of New Zealand are given.

86-87. *Mojsisovics on Hungarian Birds.*

[Bericht über eine Reise nach Südungarn und Slavonien im Frühjahr 1884. Von Prof. August von Mojsisovics. Mitth. d. naturwissensch. Ver. f. Steiermark, 1884 und 1885.]

Biologische und faunistische Beobachtungen über Vögel und Säugethiere Südungarns und Slavoniens in den Jahren 1884 und 1885. Von Prof. August von Mojsisovics. Mitth. d. naturwissensch. Ver. f. Steiermark, 1885.]

In the first paper Prof. Mojsisovics gives us an interesting account of his excursion to Southern Hungary and Sclavonia in May 1884, when he visited some of the great breeding-places of Ardeidæ and other aquatic birds on the Danube and Save. At Nestin, near Illok, on the Danube, an estate

of Graf Otto Chotek, was a carefully preserved eyrie of *Aquila imperialis* (sive *heliaca*), situated on an oak tree within sight of the house, from which, as the Professor was subsequently informed, three young birds were successfully reared by their parents two months later. But all the larger birds of this district and their nesting-places seem to have become woefully diminished of late years.

In the second article Prof. Mojsisovics gives a series of systematically arranged notes on the birds met with during the tour described in his former paper, and during another excursion in the same district. Of *Sterna fluviatilis* he speaks at some length and asserts that in this species some examples can only be distinguished from *S. arctica* (sive *macrura*) by the longer tarsus. One hundred and ninety-two species are included in the list. The supposed occurrence of *Hoplopterus spinosus* (see p. 31) was not definitely established.

88. 'Ornis,' Vol. I, Nos. 2, 3.

[Ornis: Internationale Zeitschrift für die gesammte Ornithologie. Organ des permanenten internationalen ornithologischen Comités, herausgegeben von Dr. R. Blasius und Dr. G. v. Hayek. 1 Jahrg. 2 und 3 Hefte. Wien.]

The conjoined numbers 2 and 3 of our new contemporary 'Ornis' (anteà, p. 90) contain articles by E. J. Grabowsky on the habits of the birds of Borneo, and by H. Gätke on the migratory visitors to Heligoland in 1884; as also the lengthy report of the committee on the ornithological observing-stations of Austria and Hungary for 1885, drawn up by Messrs. v. Dalla Torre and v. Tschusi. Herr Gätke's ornithological diary for 1884 will be read with great interest.

89. *Payne-Gallwey on Duck Decoys.*

[The Book of Duck Decoys: their Construction, Management, and History. By Sir Ralph Payne-Gallwey, Bart. 4to. London: Van Voorst, 1886.]

This beautifully printed work, with numerous illustrations and plans for the establishment and working of decoys, falls more within the lines of the sportsman, and even of the

antiquarian, than of the pure ornithologist. That it will be read by many of the latter, and deserves to be read by all, there can be no doubt; and if those whose means allow of their keeping up decoys without a view to profit will avail themselves of the practical experiences of one who is both sportsman and ornithologist, considerable advantage may accrue to our favourite branch of science. Even from the present volume, devoid of all pretension in this respect, there is a good deal to be learnt respecting the various Ducks which frequent or are absent from certain localities; and the details of the way in which some species have replaced others is interesting and instructive. For instance, at the Hale Decoy in Lancashire, Mallard predominated from 1801 to 1875; but in the latter year Teal suddenly appeared in large numbers, and the result of this "lead" of fowl has been that numbers of foreign-bred Teal now resort to this favourable locality, replacing the Mallard, whose breeding-haunts in the "moss-lands" of the county are decreasing through drainage. It will be an agreeable surprise to many of our readers to learn that even at the present time, in spite of cultivation, drainage, railways, and trespassers under the Ground Game Act, there are still upwards of forty decoys in working order in England and Ireland, while there are many disused ones which could easily be re-established. We by no means share the gloomy and desponding views expressed by the reviewer of this work in the 'Athenæum'; and even if the majority of decoys can no longer be worked so as to produce an ample livelihood, they can surely be so managed as to afford a good deal of pleasure, with little, if any loss. The sea-board counties of Lincoln, Norfolk, Suffolk, and Essex are, from their position, the most favourable; but inland Nottinghamshire, owing to its large lakes and the winding Trent, is believed to contain at times more wildfowl than any other county of its class; while next to it, perhaps, comes Buckinghamshire, which formerly boasted several decoys. At present only one of the latter is worked; but we understand that a younger member of the Rothschild family takes an active interest in ornithology, and he has now every opportunity for

following the example of our worthy President, Lord Lilford, who has recently had a decoy constructed for him near Oundle, in Northamptonshire, by T. G. Skelton, one of the celebrated decoy-making family. We heartily recommend the book, and hope it will be productive of good.

90. *Radde's Fauna and Flora of the South-western Caspian District.*

[Die Fauna und Flora des südwestlichen Caspi-gebietes: wissenschaftliche Beiträge zu den Reisen an der Persisch-Russischen Grenze. Von Dr. Gustav Radde. Leipzig: Brockhaus, 1886. 1 vol. 8vo. 426 pp.]

Dr. Radde has, perhaps wisely, issued in a separate volume the systematic account of the zoological and botanical results of his travels in the district adjoining the south-western portions of the Caspian Sea, which border on the present frontier between Russia and Persia. He had himself prepared the portion relating to the Mammals, Birds, and Fishes of this little-known region, besides the Botany, having obtained the assistance of other well-known savants for the various groups of Arthrozoa and Mollusca. As regards the Birds, this part of the subject has been recently treated of very fully in the author's '*Ornis Caucasica*,' published at Cassel in 1884. In the present work we have therefore only a list of the species as yet known to occur in "*Talysch*," as this district is called, with remarks on their horizontal and vertical distribution. The nomenclature and arrangement of the '*Ornis Caucasica*' are adhered to. The species included in the list are 312, and 40 "varieties," *i. e.* subspecies. The '*Ornis Caucasica*' gave us 370 species and 66 varieties. We observe that the *Porphyrio* of the Caspian is still called "*veterum*, S. G. Gmelin," although it has been shown that that ancient naturalist never made such a name, and, moreover, that the species in question is the Indian *P. poliocephalus* (*cf.* Ibis, 1885, p. 111).

91. *Reyes on the Birds of Spain and Portugal.*

[Catálogo de las Aves de España, Portugal é Islas Baleares. Por Don

Ventura de los Reyes y Prosper. *Anales de la Soc. Esp. de Hist. Nat.* tom. xv. 1886. Madrid: 1886.]

This is a very useful compilation, giving a list of 408 species found in or ascribed to the Peninsula, with remarks upon their geographical distribution. The author appears to be well acquainted with the writings of his compatriots, as well as with those of Lord Lilford, Col. Irby, and Howard Saunders, but we fear that he does not understand English perfectly; and he is evidently unacquainted with Saunders's later and fuller Catalogue of the Birds of Southern Spain, *in French*, published in the *Bulletin de la Société Zoologique de France*, in 1876-77. Unfortunately Dr. Reyes does not draw any critical distinctions between the relative values of the authorities cited by him, one of whom (Vayreda) we consider to be almost valueless, whilst some others, although useful in their time, are now out of date. The treatise is, however, by far the best of its kind that has as yet appeared in the Spanish language, and we are much pleased to see such good work in the Peninsula.

92. *Snelleman on the Birds of Sumatra.*

[Midden Sumatra. Reizen in Onderzoekingen der Sumatra-Expeditie, uitgerust door het aardrijkskundig Genootschap, 1877-79, beschreven door de Leden der Expeditie, onder toezicht van Prof. P. J. Veth. Royal 8vo. Leiden, 1881. Band iv. *Natuurlijke Historie. Zorgdeerin en Vogels*, door Joh. F. Snelleman.]

Mr. Snelleman gives a list of about 95 species of birds of which examples were obtained by Prof. Veth during his expedition into the interior of Sumatra in 1877-79. Three of these species were originally supposed to be new and were described by Schlegel as *Perdix vethi*, *Arachnothera concolor*, and *Rhipidura vidua*. These are now identified with *Peloperdix rubrirostris*, Salvad., *Arachnothera affinis*, Horsf., var. *modesta*, Eyton, and *Rhipidura atrata*, Salvad., all three being figured; *Treron massica*, Schlegel, is also figured.

93-94. *Sousa on African Birds.*

[Lista das aves colligidas em Africa de 1884 a 1885, pelos Srs. Capello e Ivens. Por José Augusto de Sousa. *Jorn. d. Sci. Math., Phys. e Natur.* Lisboa, 1886, No. xlii.]

Lista das aves colligidas pelo Sr. Serpa Pinto, no Ibo, em 1885. Por José Augusto de Sousa. *Tom. cit.* (Separate copies.)]

The former is a list of some of the species (30 in number) collected by Senhors Capello and Ivens, between $11^{\circ} 22'$ and $15^{\circ} 38'$ S. lat., and $23^{\circ} 43'$ and $30^{\circ} 21'$ E. long., during their well-known journey across the "Dark Continent." Most of the species are South-African, but *Amauresthes fringilloides* appears to have been found for the first time to the north of Zanzibar, and *Musophaga rossæ* beyond the limit of the Province of Angola. From the river Coroca two species are added to the list.

The latter paper contains a list of 23 species sent to the Lisbon Museum by the celebrated explorer Senhor Serpa Pinto, and principally collected between about $12^{\circ} 25'$ S. lat., and $40^{\circ} 40'$ E. long. Among the more interesting are *Smithornis capensis* and *Erythrocercus thomsoni*, Shelley.

95. *Taczanowski on the Birds of Ussuria.*

[Liste des Oiseaux reçus récemment du Sud-ouest du Pays Oussourien. Par L. Taczanowski. Bull. Soc. Zool. France, 1885, pp. 464-478.]

This list contains remarks on 171 species obtained for the Warsaw Museum by MM. Jankowski and Kalinowski; the majority from localities between 43° and 46° N. lat., with a few from Vladivostok, among the latter being an example of the Cinereous Vulture (*Vultur monachus*), new to Eastern Siberia. *Buphus coromandus* is recorded for the first time from North China.

L.—*Letters, Announcements, &c.*

We have received the following letters addressed to the Editors of 'The Ibis':—

SIRS,—In 'The Ibis,' 1884 (p. 42), Mr. Seebohm wrote, "it seems probable that the name of *Bubo maximus* must be erased from the list of Japan birds." I am happy to be